IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SMT. MARGARET ALVA): (a) The Arjuna Award has been conferred on 12 sports persons in Kho-Kho and on 7 sports persons in Kabaddi till date;

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Demand of commuters for starting couple of local trains from Dombivali

309. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the constant demand of commuters of Dombivali, district Thana for starting couple of local trains from Dombivali Railway station;

(b) if so, what are the reasons for not agreeing to this demand;

(c) whether Government are aware that local trains which originate from Ghatkopar, Bhainder, Goregaon etc. in Bombay are having the same facilities as is available in Dombivali; and

(d) if so, what are the reasons for which Dombivali Railway station is being deprived of such facility and given step-motherly treatment?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) Multiplicity of intermediate terminals for running of suburban trains results in the reduction of the overall capacity aggravating over-crowding and inconveniencing majority of the passengers.

Chaotic conditions at Delhi Airport cargo complex

310. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the country has lost export orders worth crores of rupees due to chaotic conditions at Delhi Airport cargo complex;

(b) whether the President of the Delhi Exporters Association has stated that there is a backlog of around 2000 tons of material at the Delhi Airport cargo complex;

(c) whether the orders worth crores of rupees have also been mised due to late deliveries; and

(d) if so, what steps Government propose to take to remedy the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) to (d) No, Sir, There is no chaotic condition at the Air Cargo Complex of Indira Gandhi International Airport. To reduce the backlog position of 2000 tonnes, Government of India have allowed all foreign airlines to freely operate cargo flights ex-India during the peak season from January to July in 1989 and 1990. During the peak season, carriers can bring inward cargo to make their operations viable. The national carrier is also increasing its cargo capacity. International Airports Authority of India has increased demurage free storage period of cargo at the IAAI Terminal in Delhi from six days to eleven days to help exporters.

Refresher course for DTC drivers

311. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any refresher course was conducted for DTC drivers during the last year;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether they were impressed upon to observe traffic rules scrupulously and give up rash driving; and

(d) if so, whether any machinery is being devised to monitor their actual conduct on the roads?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A crash programme of refresher course with a batch of 150 drivers per week is being conducted since September, 1988 in collaboration with Delhi Traffic Police and Petroleum Conservation Research Association. Special emphasis is laid on the behavioural aspects, road safety, safe driving, and fuel consumption, etc. The drivers are given practical training on the roads and their driving habits are checked for effecting further improvements.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) At the end of the course, the drivers are interviewed and they are graded according to their performance. Follow up action is taken by deploying supervisory staff with instructors to check their driving habits on the roads and to take remedial actions by the DTC.

Harassment of Indian visitors to Pakistan

312. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian visitors to Pakistan are being harassed by Customs and Immigration officials in that country;

(b) if so, whether this has been brought to the notice of the Government of India recently; and

(c) whether Government of India have taken up the matter with the Pakistan Government; if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): (a) to (c) Government have seen reports to the effect that certain Indian visitors to Lahore have been harassed by Pakistani officials. No specific complaints in this regard have been received by our Embassy in Islamabad, so far. This matter has been taken up with the Government of Pakistan.

Financial position of Indian Airlnes

313. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Airlines is heading for a sharp downward trend in its performance in the current financial year;

(b) if so, to what extent the financial position received a set-back during 1988-89; and

(c) to what extent it was less in 1987-88 and what efforts are being made to improve its position during 1989-90?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) No, Sir. The current financial year has just started and Indian Airlines has budgeted a pre-tax profit of Rs. 9.15 crores during 1989-90 despite the higher depreciation and interest charges due to induction of Airbus aircraft. The profit before depreciation and interest in 1989-90 is expected to be higher than in 1987-88 and 1986-87.

(b) Indian Airlines earned a pre-tax profit of Rs. 38.10 crores during 1988-89.

(c) In 1987-88 Indian Airlines earned a pre-tax profit of Rs. 78.66 crores as against Rs. 68.74 crores in 1986-87.